PRINCESS COMICS

11

氷栗優

ナイトレイド

Chapter 40
ハーメルン

SNIFF
SNIFF

RUSTLE

THERE
...
...
HE RAN
THAT
WAY!

SNIFF

THUD

ALL
RIGHT!
I'LL
...
!

UH-OH!
IT
SLIPPED
AWAY!

THAT'S RIGHT.
ANYHOW, THE
TARGET WAS
SO TINY.

IT...
THESE THINGS
HAPPEN ALL
THE TIME,
LORD JOFRE.

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MY OLDER SISTER?

WELL, AT THIS HOUR, SHE SHOULD BE AT THE OFFICE.

HA HA HA

AS EXPECTED, I LIKE SNACKS MORE THAN HUNTING.

STILL ?

SHE IS SUCH A DILIGENT WORKER.

IT'S HER JOB... ALTHOUGH IT IS JUST A TITLE

AS A CONSUL, LADY LUCRETIA CERTAINLY HAS GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE CITIZENS

EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT HER.

DESPITE BEING A WOMAN, SHE IS TRULY A SPLENDID GOVERNOR THAT FULFILLS HER DUTIES.

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD, HAVEN'T YOU. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK?

YOU ARE RIGHT.

PHEW

TAP

BUT BEFORE THAT, I'LL LOOK THROUGH THESE DOCUMENTS ...

...

OH ...

WHO COULD IT BE..?

HE ASKS FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU, LADY LUCREZIA.

EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUP -TING.

A VISITOR HAS COME FROM ROME.

!

ALFONSO!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, LUCREZIA

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

YOU... DIDN'T YOU JUST RETURN TO NAPOLI*?

IT CAN'T BE ...

AS I THOUGHT, ONE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ONE'S POLITICAL FETTERS.

I GUESS, I COULD SAY THIS IS PART OF MY FATE.

*E/N: Modern day Naples, Italy.

SINCE, IN ANY CASE ...

IT WAS A LITTLE TROUBLE-SOME SLIPPING THROUGH THE TIGHTLY CLOSED GATE IN THE CASTLE WALLS... WITHOUT THE POPE'S PERMISSION.

Uh.. uhm...

... EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU PLEASE LEAVE US..?

WHY ... ... DID YOU DO SUCH A DANGEROUS THING?

DIDN'T I GIVE YOU MY WORD..? THAT IF I DISCOVER SOMETHING I'D LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

LEND ME YOUR EAR ...

!!

I... is ... ... that true?

Really ...

I WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THE NEWS THAT SUCH A PERSON ...

... IS WITH NALDI, THE CHAMBERLAIN OF IMOLA.

THIS ...

YOU ARE SURE OF IT!

Chiaro ...

... is ... alive!

HE SEEMS SKILLFUL WITH THE SWORD AS ALWAYS.

I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT.

LUCREZIA

EVEN AT THIS INSTANT... I WANT TO FLY TO THAT PERSON...

IF ONLY THIS BODY HAD WINGS...

I'M SORRY ...

TRUTHFULLY, I WANT TO HELP YOU TO ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE.

AS LONG AS WE ARE ALIVE, WE WILL SURELY MEET SOMEDAY.

YES... I CAN BELIEVE THAT'S TRUE.

THANK YOU ...

NOW I HAVE THE HOPE TO KEEP ON LIVING.

THIS PLACE IS ...

MY SECRET LABORATORY.

...

I CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE WITH MY RESEARCH HERE.

I'M ALSO THINKING ABOUT LEAVING THIS COUNTRY.

I'VE ALREADY SAID FAREWELL TO MILAN. WITH IL MORO HAVING FLED ...

!

THIS ... IS ...

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ENORMOUS BAT.

THE SKY ...

PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO FLY..?

MASTER, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS?

IT'S A PROTO -TYPE

ALTHOUGH IT'S HARD TO SAY WHEN A FINISHED PRODUCT CAN BE MADE ...

THAT'S A MACHINE THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO FLY THE SKIES

THOSE ARE MY PRECIOUS BLUEPRINTS. LOAD THEM IN MY CARGO.

AS LONG AS I HAVE THEM ...

IT'S STILL POSSIBLE TO REBUILD THEM AFTER THEY'VE BEEN DESTROYED.

I SEE ...

THAT'S HOW 'DEMONIC' THEY ARE.

IF I SO MUCH AS PROFESS THE EXISTENCE OF THESE INVENTIONS, I WOULD BE INSTANTLY SEEN AS A HERETIC

I CAN'T LET THESE FALL INTO THE HANDS OF IGNORANT PEOPLE

DES-TROYED ?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT'S THIS?

THIS IS ... INCRE-DIBLE.

THIS IS A DIVING VESSEL THAT CAN CARRY PEOPLE UNDERWATER.

AND THIS ONE, FOR A SHORT TIME CAN CREATE A BARRAGE OF ARTILLERY

YES, SARAI.

SEE THAT YOU DON'T LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE BEHIND!

MA...MASTER, IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO DO THIS?

IT SEEMS RATHER UNUSUAL.

BUT ALSO THE SO CALLED MIRROR WRITING... IT'S RARE TO SEE SOMEONE WHO INSTANTLY UNDERSTANDS THAT.

BURN

SOME-DAY ...

WHEN CIVILIZATION REACHES THE RIGHT POINT, I THINK PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT I WAS SEEING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.

I ...

WHEN I HAVE MY OWN ARMY ...

I WILL NEED THAT KIND OF WISDOM.

AT THAT TIME, WILL YOU COME TO ME ...?

LEONARDO DA VINCI.

HEY! LOOK!

FIRE!

I WILL BE WAITING.

CESARE BORGIA

IF YOU TRULY ...

CAN WIN AGAINST FATE ...

DEMON -LIKE ...

WEAPONS ...

IF I DON'T HURRY ...

I CAN'T MISS THIS CHANCE.

THEN ...

I NEED MY FATHER'S POWER.

LORD CESARE

FATHER WANTS TO HOLD A FAMILY COUNCIL?

?

HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO EVERYONE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE BORGIA FAMILY

IT'S URGENT. THE MEETING WILL BE IN NEPI.

IT'S HARD TO ATTACK HIS HOLINESS, THE POPE OF ROME.

HIS POWER IS THE REPRESEN-TATIVE OF GOD.

Nepi

EVERYONE ACKNOW -LEDGES HER.

I'M PROUD OF HER TOO.

I'M EMBARA -SSED

FATHER ...

OH IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

IT SEEMS YOUR WORK IN SPOLETO HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE.

THAT VOICE ...

NOW THAT EVERYONE IS GATHERED.

HOW COME THE MEETING OF THE 'FAMILY COUNCIL' IS SO...

SOLEMN

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, LUCREZIA.

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.

A...

TO EXPAND THE PAPAL TERRITORIES TO INCLUDE THE NEARBY REGIONS OF MARCHE AND UMBRIA.

WE MUST ANNEX THESE ROMAGNIAN PARISHES AT ONCE. I THINK WE SHOULD PLAN ...

THERE -FORE ...

THE DECLINE IN THE VATICAN'S POWER IS A RESULT OF LETTING THE ROMAGNIAN TERRITORIES' LORD AND FAMILY DO AS THEY PLEASE.

FROM HERE ON OUT ...

... TO THAT END

I ENTRUST ALL THE EARTHLY POWERS OF THE POPE

TO THIS MAN, CESARE BORGIA.

GIVING HIM THE SAME POWER AS THE POPE IN ROME...

THOUGH IT'S JUST HIS EARTHLY POSITION - THIS IS STILL...!

OHH ...

WHAT ...!?

THE LORDS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES WHO DO NOT PAY THE CHURCH TITHE-

THEN I HAVE BUT ONE FAVOR TO ASK OF HIS HOLINESS THE POPE.

... PLEASE EXCOMMUNI -CATE THEM ALL...!

USING YOUR POWER AS POPE ...

VOLPE ...

INVITE GIACOMO GAETANI, THE PAPAL SECRETARY, TO ROME.

UNDER -STOOD

TO START WITH ...

... SACRIFICE THE GAETANI OF LATIUM AS SCAPEGOATS.

AS YOU WISH.

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, LUCRETIA.

OH!

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP OR ANYTHING ...

UMM... BROTHER, I...

!

WHA... WHAT?

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL, WHITE HAND ...

UNSULLIED BY DIS -GRACE

AND ALSO ...

A DAUGHTER OF THE BORGIAS.

MY SISTER.

WITHIN THAT WHITE HAND, IT FLOWS UNMISTAKABLY... BORGIA BLOOD.

I CAN NO LONGER LET YOU IGNORE THAT FACT. THAT IS YOUR FATE.

CE...SA...

AH!

BRO
-THER
...
WAIT
!

COME,
VOLPE.

ALSO... YOU
SHOULD BE
CONSCIOUS THAT
YOU TOO ARE
LINKED TO A FAMILY
COLOURED BY
CORRUPTION.

ONCE WE
OVERTHROW
THE GAETANI

YOU'LL
TAKE CARE
OF THAT
TERRITORY.

SO, PLEASE...! NO MATTER
HOW YOUR SITUATION
CHANGES...
...THAT MAN..AT LEAST BE
SURE NOT TO INTERFERE
WITH PRINCE ALFONSO.

THAT MAN
...
IS MY
BENEFAC
-TOR.

I DON'T
CARE
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME!

YOU... HAVE YOU TRULY LOST YOUR HUMAN HEART...?

CESARE!

THAT KIND FACE FROM MY MEMORIES...WHERE HAS IT GONE...?

WH... WHAT!?

LORD SECRETARY GIACOMO GAETANI. YOU ARE UNDER SUSPICION OF HIGH TREASON.

PLEASE COME WITH US.

WH...WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

WAIT!

MAYBE THIS IS SOME KIND OF TRAP!

HIGH TREASON!?

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE. I'LL GO DIRECTLY TO THE VATICAN AND...

WHO ARE YOU!

GWAAH!

EHH!

EHH!!

BERNAR
-DINO!

HEY,
DID YOU
HEAR?

ALL OF THE
GAETANIS'
PROPERTY
HAS BEEN
SEIZED.

4'17

WOAH, SCARY ...

RUMOUR SAYS IT WAS THAT ASSASSIN, 'MICHELOTTO', WHO DID IT.

ISN'T THIS 'MICHELOTTO' RELATED TO THE BORGIAS?

IT'S A DOWNRIGHT BLOOD PURGE I SUPPOSE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME .IS HE STILL GOING STRONG I WONDER .?

LORD SECRETARY GIACOMO

YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY HEARD THE FAMILY RUMOURS.

IT'S TOO BAD, BUT ...

SOON YOU WILL LEAVE HERE, AND THERE IS NO WAY TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE ...

THIS IS ...

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY A CERTAIN GENTLE -MAN

IT IS A DRUG THAT WILL SOON RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR SUFFERING.

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

WHETHER OR NOT YOU USE IT...

IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

AND YET STILL ...

NOT ENOUGH.

ONLY THE FOUL STREAM OF BLOOD FROM HUMAN SACRIFICE ...

CAN CHANGE THIS AGE.

THE GREAT MORAL CAUSE OF RESTORING THE CHURCH'S AUTHORITY ALLOWS ME TO JUSTIFY MY ACTIONS.

YOU, TOO... I'D LIKE YOU TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FROM NOW ON ...

MICHELOTTO

YES ...

IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF GOD.

TO THE ALL POWERFUL GOD ...

IS RAISED THE PITIFUL LAMB.

THE PREPARA -TIONS ARE ...
ADVANCING STEADILY
BEFORE LONG THE SIGNAL WILL GO OUT TO THE TROOPS.
OH!
SORRY, I'M INTERRUPT- ING.
ALFON -SO.

WHAT WERE YOU PRAYING FOR SO EARNESTLY?

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO DEPART ...

I'M FINISHED.

IT'S OKAY.

DEEP, WITHIN THE DARKNESS, LOCKED UP TIGHTLY ... THAT PERSON'S HEART.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE

I WANT THERE TO BE A PLACE WHERE IT CAN FEEL AT EASE.

DESPITE MY FATHER'S ORDERS, YOU CAME BACK TO ROME...EVEN THOUGH IT'S LIKELY THAT YOU'LL BE EXPOSED TO DANGER.

I'M SORRY ... ALFONSO.

LUCRE -ZIA

!?

ALFON -SO.

YOU ...

I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT YOU.

IF IT GETS DANGEROUS, I CAN STILL RUN AWAY.

I EXPECTED THAT WHEN I RETURNED.

DON'T WORRY.

HA

That's

EVEN THOUGH I MAY BE UNRELIA -BLE.

...

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN REPAY MY DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO YOU AND SANCIA.

I'LL USE WHATEVER POWER I HAVE -

LUCRE -ZIA

THANK YOU.

LUCREZIA

...

YOU'RE A WONDERFUL PERSON.

CLIP CLOP

CLIP CLOP

A REPORT, YOUR LADY -SHIP.

CESARE BORGIA IS AIDING THE FRENCH KING IN THE PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

YES D'ALLÈGRE HAS 4,800 CAVALRY AND 4,000 SWISS AND GASCON INFANTRYMEN.

WITH THE ITALIAN MERCENARIES FROM CESENA, THEIR NUMBER MAY ROUGHLY EXCEED 10,000.

THEY'VE FINALLY SET OUT TO CONQUER ALL THE ROMAGNIAN TERRITORIES, HAVE THEY.

DAMN YOU, BORGIA.

WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU POINT A SWORD AT ME, CATERINA SFORZA! I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!

FORLI?

CATERINA SFORZA, I SUPPOSE.

YOUR HOU -NESS

BY YOUR GRACE, A MESSENGER HAS COME FROM FORLI TO NEGOTIATE PEACE.

I don't want to get involved.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED, LET HIM IN.

...WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY LADY CATERINA SFORZA.

THIS LETTER ...

IT'S QUITE SECURE, ISN'T IT.

...LET ME ...

LORD CESA -RE!

BAD NEWS!

JUST NOW - WE RECEIVED WORD FROM A MESSEN -GER ... HIS HOLINESS, THE POPE, HAS COLLAPSED ...!

!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIS HOLINESS?

W... WELL...

PHEW

PHEW

SLAM

IS MY FATHER HERE?

YOU... NOW... IN ROMANIA ...

RIDING A HORSE HARD ONE CAN MAKE IT BACK IN TWO DAYS.

NEVER MIND THAT, YOU LOOK -

COULD YOU PLEASE STEP OUT?

?

THIS IS ...

... POISON.

WHO COULD HAVE ..?

THE PEACE MESSEN -GER'S PETITION ...

A DEADLY POISON WAS SPREAD ON THAT LETTER!?

BY THE POWER OF THE DEMONS, THE BLOOD OF MY BODY TURNED TO POISON.
THE ENTRANCING POISON ...
-CANTARELLA-
HOWEVER - WITH JUST ONE DROP, THE POISON CAN BECOME A CURE.
LIKE CURES LIKE ...
PLEASE, HAVE CONFIDEN-CE IN ME

I WON'T LET YOU DIE, FATHER ...

NOT YET ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

Shiver

.....

.....

BE-CAUSE ...

IT HAS NOT YET BEGUN ...

... MY REVENGE AGAINST THIS FATE OF MINE.

OH ...

FA-THER!

IS FATHER ALL RIGHT ...!?

DON'T WORRY.

FA-THER ...

... IS FINE.

LET'S HURRY BACK, VOLPE.

HA HA HA

HE WHO MOCKS THE BORGIAS WILL PAY THE PRICE WITH HIS BODY-

CESA ... RE ...

CATERINA SFORZA

ARE YOU NOT SUITED TO BE THE FLOWER THAT ADORNS MY FIRST BATTLE?

BAD NEWS, LADY CATERINA.

A MESSENGER ARRIVED - THE PEOPLE OF IMOLA HAVE OPENED THE CASTLE GATES BEFORE THE PAPAL ARMY LED BY CESARE BORGIA.

FROM EVERY ENTRANCE

...THE PEOPLE PRAISED THE ROMAN PAPAL ARMY AS "LIBERATORS".

WHAT !?

Chapter 41

CLENCH

HONESTLY!

OF ALL THE SHAMELESS, IGNORANT PEOPLE-!

Fetch the hostages from Imola!

DONE!

IT'S A WARNING

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THESE TRAITORS?

IT'S TO MAKE SURE THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF FORLI UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY

BUT-

THIS MOVE SEPARATES YOU MORE AND MORE FROM THE SYMPATHY OF YOUR SUBJECTS. THAT MAY BE A DISADVANTAGE INSTEAD!

RIGHT NOW IT'S YOUR COLLABO-RATION WITH THE CITIZENS-

IT'S BETTER TO SUBMIT OLD MAN!

NO... TH...THAT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!

FOOLS ONLY UNDERSTAND THROUGH FORCE.

YOU DON'T LIKE MY METHODS?

BESIDES, IN ANY CASE -

IN IMOLA, NALDI'S PROTECTING THE FORTRESS

AS LONG AS NALDI'S THERE, SOMETHING LIKE THE PAPAL ARMY'S NOT WORTH WORRYING ABOUT RIGHT, MOTHER!

WELL.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT ...

HMPH

IF WE'RE TO SURREN-DER NOW

PERHAPS WE WOULD NOT BE CHARGED WITH ALL OUR CRIMES.

TO ADMIT DEFEAT WITHOUT FIGHTING ...

NO, A HIGHLY SKILLED SWORDSMAN LIKE MYSELF CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT

UNSHEATHE

SURELY ...

AS A MILITARY MAN, THERE'S VALUE IN FIGHTING!?

OOOH

NOW I'M GETTIN' SOMETHIN' EXCITED!

CESARE.. RIGHT NOW, HE'S OUTSIDE THESE CASTLE WALLS.

GETTIN' NERVOUS, ARE YA?

Yer pretty gloomy

SLAP!

MARIO

OUR OPPONENT'S JUST SOME EX-PRIEST FIGHTIN' HIS FIRST BATTLE, RIGHT?

IT'LL BE FINE!

THAT IS, WELL, I...

TRUTH IS, IT'S MY FIRST TIME FIGHTIN' TOO!

SINCE I WAS A KID, 'CAUSE OF THE SKIRMISHES 'TWEEN THE POWERFUL FAMILIES IN THE REGION, MY VILLAGE-

IT WAS AAALWAYS WRAPPED UP IN WAR, AN' WE SUFFERED A LOT

THANK-S TO THAT,

OUR NATURAL STATE IS DESTITU-TION.

THAT'S WHY WHEN I GOT BIGGER I STARTED FIGHTIN'

ALL THIS TIME I'VE THOUGHT, MY MA WORKED HARD AN' RAISED ME BY HERSELF, SO I WANTED TO LET HER BE HAPPY

NOW MY CHANCE HAS FINALLY COME!

AAAH~ I'M GETTIN' ALL EXCITED.

I BET THE HIGHEST PRIZE HAS GOTTA BE FOR THE LEADER.

CESARE BORGIA, HUH... I WONDER WHAT KINDA GUY HE IS.

BUT IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD TAKE HIS HEAD-

THAT MAN ...

HE CAN'T BE KILLED THAT EASILY.

HUH !?

HEY, WAIT! CHIARO!

CHIARO, WAIT!

SURROUND THE PERIMETER WITH ARTILLERY!

CROSSBOW UNIT TO THE FRONT!

TCH

WAHH!

DON'T FALTER! DO NOT LET THEM TAKE A SINGLE STEP INSIDE THESE WALLS!

IT'S BEST TO SURRENDER QUIETLY FROM THE BEGINNING.

THE HARDER YOU STRUGGLE IN VAIN, THE TIGHTER THE NOOSE BECOMES.

WAAH!

YAAAAAAH!

CLANG

HHH

WAHHH

CHIARO!

YEAH ...

SHUT UP!

DON'T BE SLOPPY! WEREN'T YOU GOING HEAD-HUNTING?

WAHH

TELL THE ADVANCE UNIT- DESTROY THE GATE, THEN ATTACK AND WIDEN THE OPENING.

FINISH THIS IN ONE GO.

YES, SIR!

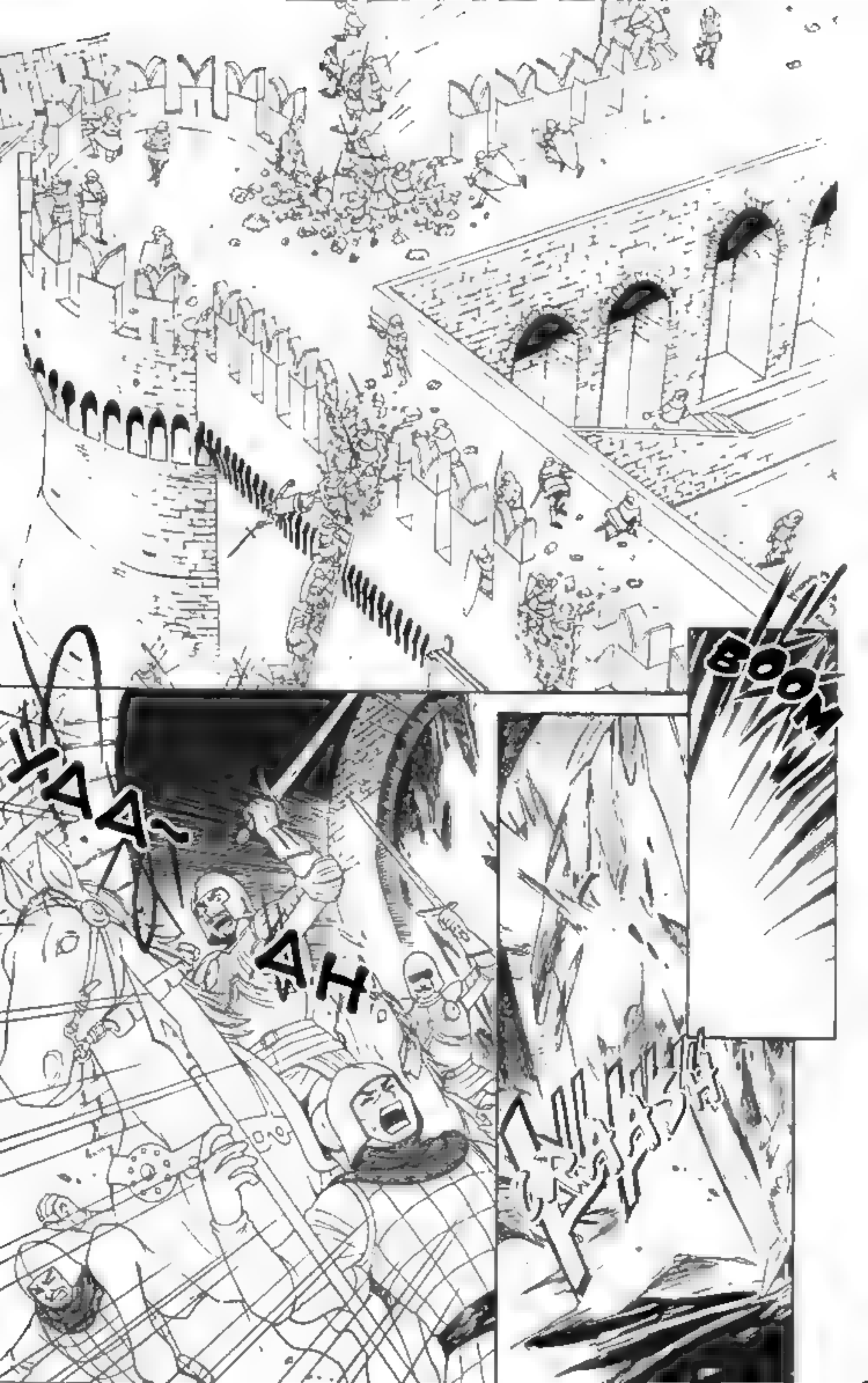
HOWEVER THE END HAS COME IF HE CONTINUES TO HOLD FAST TO HIS VALUES AS A MILITARY MAN

DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DESTROY THE FORTRESS UNTIL NO STONE IS LEFT STANDING

THIS MAN WORKING AS CHAMBER- LAIN, NALDI, IS HOLDING OUT WELL.

THOSE WHO PREVENT ME FROM MOVING FORWARD

THERE'S NO NEED TO LET THEM LIVE.


BOOM
AAH
AAH

THE GATE...

THIS IS BAD...!

SHUT UP!

YOU MEAN TO SHOW THE ENEMY YOUR BACK-SIDE!?

NOW... THERE'S NO WAY OUT.

COMMAN-DER! HERE, WE'RE-

THOU ART NALDI? ALTHOUGH FROM THE START YOU HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE BATTLE

...YOU ARE JUST AS I HAD HEARD YOUR FIGHTING STYLE WAS ADMIRABLE

SO THIS, THIS IS LORD CESARE FOR YOU TO APPEAR PERSONALLY IS QUITE AN HONOUR

THERE IS ONLY ONE MORE THING YOU MUST SAY WITH RESPECT-

YIELD.

IF YOU DO SO, AS YOUR ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE- I WILL WELCOME YOU WARMLY AS AN OFFICER IN MY ARMY

ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO LEND ME YOUR POWER?

IS THAT SUCH A BAD OFFER?

I MUST HONOURABLY REFUSE YOUR OFFER

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY INTEND TO CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY THAT FAR

CATERINA HAS LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON IMOLA.

AS A MILITARY MAN AND CHAMBERLAIN, THIS FORTRESS WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME

SURRENDERING IT IN EXCHANGE FOR MY OWN SAFETY IS NO KIND OF EXCUSE TO PRESENT TO LADY CATERINA.

!?

FOR A PERSON LIKE THAT ... YOU SHOULDN'T WAGER YOUR LIFE FOLLOWING ORDERS.

THE MINUTE SHE HEARD THAT THE PEOPLE OF IMOLA HAD OPENED THE CASTLE GATE

IT SEEMS SHE KILLED THE PEOPLE TAKEN PRISONER EN MASSE AS AN EXAMPLE

I

THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN SAY.

I SEE.

SEIZE HIM!

IF HE RESISTS, I DON'T CARE IF YOU KILL HIM.

!

COMMANDER NALD!!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

YOU ALL AT LEAST CAN SURVIVE!!

UNGH

CARLO! MARCELLINO!

TCH

AH

AHH.

Shiver

Shiver

!

Chi
...
ㅎ
...
ㅠㅁ
...

WAAAHHHH!

MARIO!

I ...

EVEN I ...

MASTER CESARE!

TCH

I D-DID IT ...

THE ENEMY'S LEADER ...

I ...

I

DID A GREAT DEED!

I ... I REALLY ...

!

STOP! MARIO!

LOOK AT ME, MOM. I- BROUGHT HIM DOWN!

I- BROUGHT HIM-

OLDER BRO-THER!

WE- COME HOME!

WE- COME HOME, MARIO!

HUH ...?

WHAT'S THIS... THE SIDE OF MY STOMACH... IT'S HOT...

HUH

HUMANS...CAN MOVE AT THAT SPEED...!?

IT CAN'T ...BE!

MARIO!

Ge-

HAH

...

YOU WERE... IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...

I MISSED YOU- CHIARO.

NOT ANOTHER STEP.

WAIT- VOLPE.

YOU...!

DON'T INTER-FERE.

IT'S A CHANCE MEETING OF OLD FRIENDS ...

WON'T YOU LET ME ENJOY IT?

HOWEVER, IN THE END, PERHAPS...

...YOU CAN KILL ME.

!

!!

THE DARKNESS...INSIDE CESARE-

THE DARKNESS IS BECOMING STRONGER...

OVERWHELMED BY DARKNESS...

...THE DEEP, BOTTOMLESS DARKNESS-

I ...

BEFORE I DISAPPEAR ...

I ...

...WHAT AM I FIGHTING AGAINST?!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE BREATHING HARD.

Huff

Huff

... I SEE

YOU'VE LOST AN ARM.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE ...

... YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST ME.

OUTTA MY WAY!

WAH!

NALDI!

THAT HEART ...

... IS FULL OF DOUBT.

IF THEY SHOULD NOT COME WITHIN THREE DAYS-

ALLOW US SEND OUT A CALL FOR REINFORCE-MENTS TO LADY CATERINA IN FORLI.

PLEASE GRANT US THREE DAYS.

... THREE DAYS!

YOU'LL SURRENDER QUIETLY?

NALOI ...!

NO LONGER...

...WILL I ALLOW THE BLOOD OF MY MEN TO BE SPILLED IN VAIN.

VERY WELL.

I WILL GRANT A TRUCE OF THREE DAYS

A THREE DAY WAIT ... ... IS A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY FOR YOUR POWER TO BECOME MINE.

IT IS NOT A SURE THING THAT THE REINFORCEMENTS WILL NOT COME...

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT

THEN- UNTIL NEXT TIME.

ONCE THE BATTLE HAS ENDED ONE MUST NECESSARILY MOURN FOR THE CORPSES

I'M SORRY, MARIO... YOU WERE KILLED RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES.

I... HESITATED.

MARIO... YOUR SOUL- WHERE DID IT GO?

WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON... WHEN THEY DIE?

WHEN I FIGHT WITH THAT MAN...

...HIS BITTERNESS AND PAIN- I CONSIGNED HIM TO THAT.

...MARIO-
-IS DEATH A RELIEF?

I HAVE TO THINK MORE SERIOUSLY.

YOU... WHAT DO YOU THINK..?

新作よみきり満載!!

プリンセスゴールド GOLD

ドラマとロマンの宝石箱!!
超ボリューム630P!!

9

カンタレラ

永栗優

待望の連載再開!!

大人カラー

エロイカより愛をこめて

青池保子

OVERWHELMED BY THE DARKNESS...

待望のシリーズ再開!!
巻頭カラーで登場!!

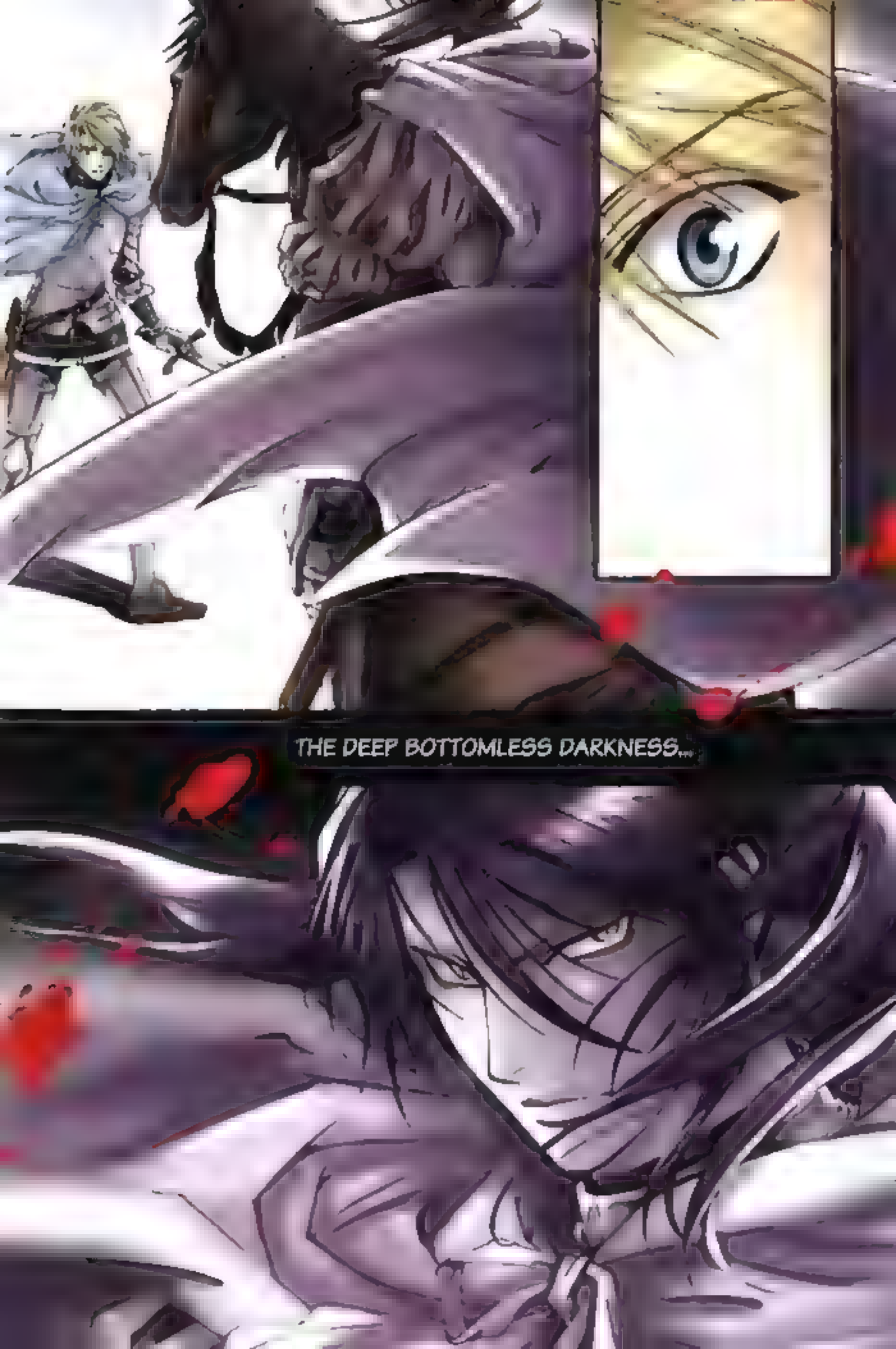
その杯を満たすのは、希望か、絶望か…。

闇の歴史ロマン カンタレラ

第42幕

氷栗優

PC カンタレラ 1~10巻
PCDX CROWN 全6巻 好評発売中!


THE DEEP BOTTOMLESS DARKNESS...

WHAT AM I FIGHTING AGAINST??

I FEAR... THIS FORTRESS CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.

YOU MUST ALL LEAVE HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

NALDI ...!

WEREN'T WE GIVEN A THREE-DAY EXTENSION? WITH THREE DAYS WE CAN SEND TO FORLI FOR REINFOR-CEMENTS...

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO USE EXTRA FORCE HERE, I'M AFRAID.

FORLI WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF CESARE'S NEXT ATTACK.

ON THE CONTRARY, I DOUBT THERE ARE REINFOR-CEMENTS.

I CANNOT LEAVE AND ABANDON THIS PLACE.

THEREFORE YOU MUST ALL RETURN TO FORLI, AND PROTECT LADY CATERINA IN MY PLACE.

!

BUT...!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HOW WILL YOU MANAGE ALONE?

THUD

heh

I AM NALDI, CHAMBERLAIN OF THIS PLACE.

I'D SET A BAD EXAMPLE IF I WERE TO LEAVE.

CHIARO ...

PLEASE PROTECT THAT PERSON FOR ME.

WHY...

WHY DO YOU GO SO FAR...

I SEE...

THREE DAYS... WASN'T IT.

WE'LL REPORT TO LADY CATERINA AND ASK HER TO SEND REINFORCE-MENTS.

UNTIL THEN, PLEASE WAIT!

THEY MADE IT THROUGH ALL THAT SAFELY -?

SENDING REINFORCEMENTS TO IMOLA...

UNTHINKABLE. GIVEN THE STATE OF THINGS HERE, YOU MUST SEE THAT'S NOT A POSSIBILITY.

WHAT'S THIS? CAN'T DO HIS JOB, HUH?

IN THE END, I GUESS EVEN THAT NARLI DOESN'T LIVE UP TO HIS REPUTATION.

CLANK

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT MAN?!

THAT'S SLOPPY WORK. SOBBING AND BEGGING FOR HELP. I USED TO ADMIRE HIM, BUT THAT'S TOO BAD.

NO WAY. YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY PLANNING TO GO BACK?!

WAIT! CHIARO!

OUT OF MY WAY!

I...

I WON'T LET YOU!

YOU'RE FIGHTING HERE!

GOOD MERCENARIES ARE OBEDIENT TO THEIR MASTERS!

SMACK

WHA ...

UH-...

HII?

I'M SCAAARED! PLEASE STAAAY!

WITH NALDI GONE, YOU'RE OUR OONLY FIGHTING STRENGTH!

WAAAAH!

... HEYY,

CAMMIT IF ONLY I HADN'T PROMISED NALDI THAT I'D PROTECT CATERNA I'D GO STRAIGHT BACK TO IMOJA..!

sfx: thud

sfx: thud

sfx: thud

ASKING FOR A THREE-DAY EXTENSION THOUGH YOU KNEW LONG AGO THAT REINFORCEMENTS WOULD NOT COME..

SO THAT YOUR MEN WOULD NOT DIE IN VAIN... I ADMIRE YOUR INTENTION.

SO, FIGHT ME BY YOURSELF, WILL YOU, NALDI?

NO...

AS PROMISED, I UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDER THIS FORTRESS BEFORE YOUR GRACE.

YOU SEEM LIKE NO FOOL.

THOSE WHO GO RECKLESSLY INTO BATTLE WITHOUT AVOIDING DANGER ARE IDENTICAL TO STUPID BEASTS. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO STAKE THEIR HONOUR AND FACE THE BATTLE KNOWING THE DANGER DESERVE TO BE CALLED "BRAVE".

I PROMISE YOU KIND TREAT-MENT.

rustle

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WILL YOU JOIN MY TROOPS?

I SEEK VALIANT MEN. EVEN ONE WOULD BE..

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS, BUT...

GIVEN MY DUTY AS MILITARY COMMANDER, I CANNOT TAKE LADY CATERINA ON AS MY ENEMY.

EVEN AT PAIN OF DEATH, IS IT?

IN THAT CASE, I SUPPOSE NOW I'LL HAVE TO USE FORCE.

!!

YOU DON'T WISH TO SEE AN ITALY FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE VARIOUS POWERS OF EUROPE?

RISING UP AS A UNIFIED STATE WITH THE POPE AT ITS CENTRE...

I WILL REALIZE THIS VISION WITHOUT FAIL...

FOR THAT REASON, THERE ARE MANY THINGS I HAVE TO DO. IT IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR ME TO TAKE ON ALONE...

THIS MAN . PERHAPS *HE* CAN MAKE IT A REALITY- EVEN A FANTASTIC NOTION SUCH AS A UNIFIED ITALY

THIS IS... THIS MAN IS CESARE BORGIA...

I'LL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS

YOU'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE UNDER HOUSE ARREST. WHEN THE MOOD STRIKES YOU, YOU CAN COME TO ME.

I WONDER WHY...

JHVER

HOWEVER

THESE VAGUE, UNKNOWN FEARS ARE...

DON'T BE HASTY, VOLPE.

LORD CESARE,

IS IT ALRIGHT TO LEAVE THE MAN AS HE IS? IF YOU LEAVE THE SEED OF EVIL TO GROW, IN THE DISTANT FUTURE...

YOU THINK IT WAS PURELY OUT OF BENE-VOLENCE OR COMPAS-SION?

ALEXANDER AND CAESAR WERE BOTH LENIENT WITH THEIR ENEMIES. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT WAS?

THE MAN IS USEFUL - IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

A MESSEN-GER! A MESSEN-GER!

THE FORTRESS OF IMOLA HAS FALLEN! THE POPE'S ARMY WITH CESARE AT THE HEAD IS MAKING ITS WAY SOUTH ON THE VIA EMILIA!

THEY'RE APPROAC-HING FORLI!!!

AAAHH!!

CESARE IS GETTING CLOSE!

SCARYY!!!

CLANK

SEND THE TROOPS INTO THE RAVALDINO FORTRESS! WE'LL MEET THE ENEMY THERE!!

rustle

GIVE IT HERE!

THAT'S MINE! HAND IT OVER!

WHAT THE.. THESE COUNTRY BUMPKINS!

A MISH-MASH OF TROOPS IN THEIR FIRST BATTLE... WHAT KIND OF FIGHT WILL THEY PUT UP AGAINST CESARE? I GUESS WORRYING ABOUT NALDI IS USELESS NOW...

IF WE WERE TO SURRENDER THE RAVALDINO FORTRESS TO CESARE'S TROOPS NOW...

AND OFFER A LIFE-TIME PENSION, THEY WOULD QUICKLY BE ON THEIR WAY...

IF YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LENIENT TREATMENT THAT LORD CESARE IS OFFERING HERE AT IMOLA, I WOULD SAY THAT PUTTING UP A HAPHAZARD RESISTANCE IS NOT A GOOD PLAN.

BUT LADY CATERINA ...

YOU THOUGHT THAT I, CATERINA SFORZA, WOULD AGREE TO HAND OVER THE CASTLE FOR THOSE KIND OF PEACE TERMS...!

HERE IS ONE...

IF YOU THINK OF IT AS A WAY IN WHICH YOU CAN AGREE TO PEACE...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THIS IS MY DOMINION! SURRENDERING WITHOUT FIGHTING WOULD BE LIKE PROSTITUTION!

PREPARE ALL THE CASTLE DEFENSES! WE'RE FACING THIS ENEMY HEAD ON!

KA BOOM KA BOOM

CATERINA SFORZA...

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU PERSIST, YOU WILL SEE THE FUTILITY OF YOUR ACTIONS FIRST-HAND...

HER CONTROL OVER THIS CASTLE IS ALREADY IN A PRE-CARIOUS STATE.

AS A RESULT OF HER OVERBEARING RULE, THE POPULAR SENTIMENT HAS SLIPPED AWAY FROM CATERINA.

EVEN THE SENIOR ADVISORS, WHO SHOULD BE CLOSEST TO HER, WOULD NOT ONLY ALLOW OUR ARMY TO ENTER THIS TOWN, BUT WOULD HAPPILY USHER US IN... PITIFUL, ISN'T IT.

efic crash

WAHH!

WH.. WHAT IS IT?!

UWAH!

WATCH OU...!

!

LADY CATE-RINA...

I'M FINE. ITS NOT SERIOUS.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, MY LORD?

CESARE

CLANG
CLANG
BRRR... IT'S FREEZING TONIGHT!
WE'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR CHRISTMAS, BUT WE END UP SPENDING IT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE LORD CESARE IS?
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIM NEAR THE CHAPEL

CHIARO I CAN'T BELIEVE IT YOU'RE IN THE ENEMY ARMY

HOW COULD FATE HAVE POSSIBLY CHANCED TO- NO

A POWER EXISTING MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE OLDEST OF ANCIENT TIMES-- THOUGH THAT MUST BE WHAT HUMANS CALL 'DEMONS ...

...TO ME IT IS UNDENIABLY "GOD". I HOPE THAT MARTYR IS NOT WORTHY.

THIS ENTIRE SOUL WISHES FOR IT... BEATEN UP AND DAMAGED THROUGH AND THROUGH, THAT BODY MADE AN OFFERING AS THE MEAT OF A SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

BEYOND LOVE, BEYOND HATE, DEEPLY, STRONGLY, THE YOU THAT CONTINUES TO EXIST IN THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL.

THIS MUST HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE... THOUGH I HAVE BEEN SEEKING, PURSUING... THE ONE THING I COULD NEVER OBTAIN-

CATERINA SFORZA HAS ONCE AGAIN REFUSED OUR COUNSEL. I CAME TO REPORT THAT SURRENDER IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

NO... I'M FINE. WHAT...?

LORD CESARE

IS IT YOUR HEALTH AGAIN...?

THIS PLACE WHERE FATE HAS BROUGHT ME - THOUGH IT MIGHT MEAN DEATH... I DON'T RESENT IT.

JUST AS HER REPUTATION AS A VIRAGO WOULD HAVE... THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS HER SHAME WON'T PERMIT.

IF THAT'S THE CASE I WONDER HOW LONG HER RESOLUTION WILL HOLD OUT... I MUST ASCERTAIN THIS FOR MYSELF

SURELY YOU DON'T THINK I INTEND TO FIGHT IN THIS OUTFIT.

A WOMAN MUST USE HER WEAPONS WHEN THE TIME COMES.

MO... MOM. THAT OUTFIT!?

THE MOMENT HE IS UNPREPARED WILL BE THE END OF THAT MAN.

BY LAYING A TRAP AND ENTICING HIM I CAN ATTACK IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IN SPITE OF BEING A MERE MERCENARY YOU DARE TO FIND FAULT WITH MY MOTHER!!

IT'S NO GOOD. HE WON'T FALL FOR THOSE KINDS OF TRAPS.

IT'LL BACK-FIRE. IT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY LEFT TO DEFEND THE FORT. NOW...

...THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

IT MUST BE DONE...!

DUKE VALENTINO, LORD CESARE.

SURELY WE CANNOT HAVE A DISCUSSION WHEN YOU ARE ON HORSEBACK? IF IT PLEASE YOU WON'T YOU PLEASE COME THIS WAY?

I WISH TO TAKE MY TIME AND SPEAK WITH YOU PROPERLY.

LORD CESARE!

DON'T FOL-LOW ME.

HE'S... COMING OVER.

rustle

!?

L... LOOK.

WHAT'S.... THAT'S... THAT...

CESARE

sfx: clank

WAHHH

GOD HELP US!!

THE TIMING IS...!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? IT'S TOO EARLY...

I UNDER-
STOOD YOUR
INTENTION...

...VERY WELL,
CATERINA
SFORZA.

sfx: roar

sfx: boom boom

LISTEN. SHOW NO MERCY.

FOR THE LADY ALIVE, TEN THOUSAND DUCATS.

DEAD, I'LL GIVE A REWARD OF FIVE THOUSAND DUCATS!

sfx: waa

sfx: crash

THE CASTLE WALLS HAVE COLLAPSED. ATTACK AT ONCE!

UWAHI

COME ON.

DON'T KILL HER. LET'S TAKE HER ALIVE!

THIS GUY...!

LEAVE THIS TO ME. HURRY!

AAAH!

UWAH

LADY CATERINA! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

...HAS ALREADY COME TO THIS...

EVEN THIS CASTLE...

!?

MINE THE CASTLE WITH BLASTING POWDER-- WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL OUT AT ONCE!

THAT VOICE...

WITH THAT BODY...

IT'S SERVED YOU WELL UP UNTIL THERE, HASN'T IT. YOU HAVE MY ADMIRATION.

次号10月号 9月16日(木)発売掲載

MUST YOU COMPLICATE MATTERS FURTHER

YOU ARE ONLY PROLONGING THE INVETIABLE.

OH...

YOU ARE QUITE THE FOOL.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THIS

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU...

BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I MUST DO!

ALL OF YOU'RE MERCENARIES HAVE FLED, YOU'RE THE LAST ONE LEFT.

WHY MUST YOU PERSIST?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS..... IS THAT WOMAN REALLY WORTH PROTECTING?

DAMN

IT'S REALLY A PITY... DID YOU THINK YOU COULD ACTUALLY WIN?

BESIDES DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU WOULD GET LUCREZIA!?

YOU SHOULD CAST THAT NOTION ASIDE!

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS WORK... SHE IS BUT A CHESS PIECE TO ME,

IN ORDER TO SATISFY MY AMBITION I WILL USE HER AS I SEE FIT.

SO!

I SEE YOU DON'T GIVE UP EASILY

BUT NEED I REMIND YOU THAT YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.

I'VE CAUGHT YOU.

BUT WHY!?

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'LL ONLY BE HURTING HER!?

WHY MUST YOU DO THIS TO HER!?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? IT'S FOR MY NEVER-ENDING AMBITION,

AND NOBODY WILL STOP ME!

YOU ...

CANNOT STOP ME!

YOU ARE...

...MINE NOW.

...CESARE

CESARE, WE MUST GET YOU TO SAFETY!

HMM ...

THIS PLACE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

THE FLAMES WILL REACH HERE SOON ENOUGH.

EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN PLANTED THROUGH-OUT THE CASTLE.

LEAVE US.

!

STOP IT, VOLPE!

THIS MATTER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

GO BACK TO...

...ROME.

LUCREZIA

AND YOUR CHILD IS WAITING FOR YOU.

YOU...

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?

HOLD IT!

.....!?

YOU HAVE A NERVE TO SHOW YOUR FACE IN FRONT OF CESARE!!

HAVE YOU NO SHAME!

SIRE, WE HAVE A REPORT THAT SHE HAS BEEN SPOTTED.

SHE SEEMS TO BE FLEEING AND IS ARMED.

SHE MAY BE HEADING TO THE TOWER TO TAKE REFUGE WHILE THE FORTRESS BLOWS UP.

THERE SHE IS!

WE'VE FOUND LADY CATERINA!

THEY'VE FOUND ME.

I CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO CAPTURE ME ALIVE.

WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TRULY WANT, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT?

WE ALL HAVE OUR GOALS IN LIFE... ISN'T IT TIME YOU STARTED GETTING SERIOUS...

YES, I UNDERSTAND

BUT I WILL NEVER LET THIS YOU.

THE FIRE IS SPREADING THROUGHTOUT THE CASTLE.

YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, BRING IT ON!

LOWLY SOLDIERS SUCH AS YOURSELVES HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ME!

IN FACT, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD SOON ENOUGH AS THE FOTRESS WILL BLOW UP SOON!

YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN, SURRENDER.

CESARE!

BUT THAT'S WHERE YOUR WRONG,

I'VE TAKEN CARE OF EVERYTHING.

LUCREZIA...

WITH...
...CHILD!?

TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY.

.....!

THE ODDS ARE NOT IN YOUR FAVOUR

SURRENDER, CARINA.

I'LL...

I'LL NEVER GIVE IN!

I WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS, BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO..

ROME

I CAN.

YOU ARE...

A DEVIL!

YOU DON'T STOP AT CAPTURING ME, WHY MUST YOU ALSO HUMILATE ME?

BE-CAUSE ...

EH?

BY THE WAY, LUCREZIA,

DID YOU KNOW THAT CESARE IS RETURNING TO ROME TRIUMPHANT?

THEY ARE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. GOING FROM HOLY SITE TO HOLY SITE THEY ENDURE THEY ENDURE THE ELEMENTS JUST TO FULFILL A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

WHAT'S WRONG, YOU LOOK SAD.

MY BROTHER... HE'S COMING HERE...

SO... CESARE IS RETURNING VICTORIUS...

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU BUT I HAVE A REPORT,

CESARE HAS TAKEN THE CASTLE AND HAS CAPTURED AND MANY PRISONERS. HE IS APPROACHING ROME TO CELEBRATE HIS VICTORY.

AH, YOU SEE THEM. THEY'VE COME TO CELEBRATE A CERTAIN SOMEONE.

IN FACT, THIS YEAR... THE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS HAVE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED.

GET OUT OF THE WAY YOU FOOL!

HEY, LOOK!

AREN'T THOSE GUYS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE VICTORY PROCESSION?

THEY SHOULD MOVE OUT OF THE WAY OR ELSE...

ARE YOU OKAY?

OH...

THIS PARADE, IT'S SO ARSENIC...! (POISION)

THIS FEELING ..... OH, I CAN'T SAY,

IT'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS... I FEEL UNEASY.

I FEEL LIKE... THIS IS THE BEGGINING OF SOME-THING WORSE, LIKE AN OMEN...

WHAT IS IT?

I'M ACTUALLY VERY HAPPY THAT HE'S RETURNING HOME SAFETLY...

IT'S JUST ...

JUST IGNORE THEM,

THOSE PILGRIMS SHOULD WATCH THERE TONGUES.

LEAVE THEM BE, THEY CAN DO NO HARM.

7

7

THEY CALL HIM THE BLACK DEVIL AND A SAINT .....

THEY SAY HE'S COME TO SAVE US...!

OH, BROTHER ...

HE'S SO MAGNIFICENT.

IT WON'T BE TOO LONG UNTIL HE BECOMES AN ARCHBISHOP,

IT'S CESARE OR NOTHING.

THEREFORE, THE POPE CONGRATULATES YOU IN YOUR VALIANT UNDERTAKING. THE PEOPLE WILL CELEBRATE YOUR VICTORY.

CESARE BORGIA. YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING THE FORCES OF LADY CATERINA.....

.....DO WE REALLY NEED A CESARE?

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT WAS CARVED INTO HIS SWORD...

..., JUST LIKE JULIUS CAESAR'S MOTTO THAT WAS CARVED ONTO HIS SWORD...

EH?

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING? YOUR EMINENCE.

ALL THE PEOPLE WERE OUT CELEBRATING THE VICTORY OF CESARE BORGIA.

THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, THE CITY WAS VIBRANT AND ESTASTIC,

YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

YOU MUST REMAIN THE WOLF IN SHEEPS CLOTHING, DON'T BECOME THE MOTH TO THE FLAME.....

YOU HAVE VERY CLEAR OBJECTIVES, YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR POSITION IN ROME.

IT'S BEEN QUITE THE "HOLY YEAR" FOR THEM.

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR THE CHURCH,

THINGS COULD BECOME EVEN MORE DANGEROUS! .....CAN'T YOU SEE THIS...

YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME,

I'VE GOT IT ALL UNDER CONTROL.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'LL JUST PACK UP AND GO HOME.

. . .IF YOU'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL...

BUT...I WON'T ALLOW IT, I CANNOT LET YOU DO SUCH A THING.

AND BE QUIET, LEST WE ATTRACT THE WRONG PEOPLE!

I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT.

I HEREBY GIVE YOU THE TITLE OF COMMANDER OF THE CHURCH'

DO YOU ACCEPT THIS TITLE?

I PRESENT YOU WITH "THE GOLDEN ROSE" AND THE "STANDARD-BEARER OF THE CHURCH" AND.....

HUH?
WHO ARE YOU!?
YOU BETTER LEAVE NOW IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? YOU'RE JUST A SMELLY PILGRIM!
WOAH!
WHAT THE?!
CHIARO!!
...LOOK'S LIKE THEY AIM TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE.
EEK...
LOOK'S LIKE YOU STRAYED TOO FAR FROM THE CARNIVAL, HOW ABOUT A LESSON IN PAIN?
LOOK'S LIKE SOME YOUNG NOBLES GOT LOST.
MY DUKE, PLEASE HURRY UP AND ESCAPE..
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH THEM!
!?
IT THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT...

OH REALLY, I HEARD THAT MOST OF THE SOLDIER'S DIED.

FRANKLY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU SUR-VIVED.

YEAH, THAT'S IT...

I SURVIVED MY ENCOUNTER WITH CESARE...

THEN,

YOU SURVIVED THE BATTLE...!

THOUGH WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DID YOU COME BECAUSE OF LUCREZIA...

THAT'S IT...

I HEARD SHE WAS IN ROME ...

CHIARO.

WHO.. WHO IS THAT PILGRIM...

HE'S REALLY STRONG!

AH ....

THAT MAN... HE ISN'T NORMAL .....

!

YOU'RE LOOKING QUITE GOOD...

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE CASTLE'S DEMISE, I FEARED THE WORST.

WE WERE JUST ATTACKED AND YET YOU ARE STILL TALKING, WE MUST MOVE!

WE CAN'T HAVE HIM KNOWING YOUR HERE.

王子！

THIS IS ROME AFTER ALL, WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT .....

FOR IF HE DOES, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE WILL DO NEXT.

YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY AND LAY LOW FOR THE TIME BEING.

BECAUSE OF THIS, WE SHOULD ALL BE ON OUR TOES.

SO DON'T WORRY YOU'LL SEE LUCREZIA SOON ENOUGH, ALRIGHT?

DUKE AFONSO ...

SO DON'T WORRY,

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... ...

LUCREZIA IS SAFE AND SOUND,

BUT YOU SHOULD STILL TRY TO MEET HER, I MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE THAT.

SHE'S OKAY,

THOUGH YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE COME...

SO DON'T LOSE HOPE.

THOUGH WE ONLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CESARE.

NONE OF US MAY KNOW WHAT CESARE MAY DO NEXT, BUT WE CAN AT LEAST TRY AND FIND OUT.

I KNOW, AND YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT I CAN TRUST.

I WILL TRY TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.

I'VE CAME THIS FAR I CAN'T FAIL

WELL, SINCE YOU WE KNOW WHAT TO DO WE CAN STOP STANDING HERE AND TALKING.

I'LL STAY OFF THE BUSY STREETS AND TAKE THE SIDE PATHS...I DON'T WANT TO BE NOTICED

NO!

LEAVE ME ALONE!

I CAN'T STAND THIS!

YOUR EMINENCE!!

WHAT'S WRONG!?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YOUR EMI-NENCE.

HEY ...

AH...

GET AWAY FROM ME! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOUR EMINENCE, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOUR EMINENCE, JUST HOLD ON... WE'VE CALLED FOR A DOCTOR.

QUICKLY, GET THE DOCTOR!

HE'S COVERED IN SWEAT

OKAY!!

I WONDER IF THERE'S MORE TO IT...

HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOURS GOING AROUND?

THEY SAY THAT THE POPE HAD SOME SORT OF SEIZURE...

THIS IS JUST ONE OF HIS MOST RECENT ATTACKS.

IT SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED, HE MUST HAVE BEEN FATIGUED

IT'S PROBABLY DUE TO HIS OLD AGE...

SANCIA D'ARAGON, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.

BY THE WAY,

HAVE YOU MET WITH AFONSO YET?

OH, SANCIA

LONG TIME NO SEE, HOW YOU DOING?

S-SISTER!

OH, NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

LUCREZIA, I'LL JUST GET OUT OF YOUR WAY SINCE THE BOTH OF YOU HAVE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT, SEE YA.

NOT YET

BY THE WAY, DIDN'T CESARE RETURN TO ROME...

YEAH, I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM, HE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE ME.

SOMEONE WISHES TO SEE YOU. LADY LUCREZIA,

AH, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.

LUCREZIA, I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU.

HUH ...

CHIARO IS IN ROME...!

LUCREZIA, WE HAVE SOMTHING TO TALK ABOUT.

SORRY, BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYBODY.

IS IT... IS IT TRUE!?

YOU ARE TOO LOUD.

QUIET!

WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER HER?

...IDIOT, WHY DID HE RETURN TO THE VATICAN?

I TOLD HIM TO BE MORE CAU-TIOUS.

LUCRE-ZIA...

OH...

I WANT TO SEE HIM SO BADLY ...

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN HIM...

I'LL TRY AND GET YOU TO SEE HIM,

HOW-EVER, NOT IS NOT THE TIME.

WE'LL NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT CESARE DOESN'T CATCH CHIARO.

THOUGH WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

.....

NOBODY CAN KNOW THIS, OTHERWISE HE'LL GET IN TROUBLE.

I KNOW IT'S HARD ON YOU, BUT YOU MUST ENDURE

I'VE REALLY MISSED YOU, CESARE BORGIA

LONG TIME NO SEE, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE BEEN BUSY. YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE POPULAR GUY.

SANCIA D'ARAGON, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH...

EVERYTIME I THINK OF YOU MY HEART FLUTTERS..... I FINALLY KNOW WHO I LOVE SO MUCH.

SANCIA D'ARAGON, YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A WHORE.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN'T.....

IT'S TRUE... YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM MOST PEOPLE...

YOU ARE THE APPLE OF MY EYE...

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO TRULY UNDER-STANDS ME.

JUST BEING BESIDE YOU IS AN HONOR FOR ME.

I LOVE YOU, CESARE BORGIA ...

SANCIA

WILL YOU COME TO MY ROOM?

SANCIA ...

WILL YOU GIVE IN AND GIVE ME YOUR BODY?

IF YOU ANSWER ME OR NOT...

ANYWAY .....

WITH MY NEWFOUND VICTORY AND TITLE, I SEEK TO BE ALSO COMPENSATED ANOTHER WAY, YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN BY THIS, DON'T YOU?

I WILL USE YOU AS I PLEASE.

EITHER WAY,

YOU ...

HOW DARE YOU TREAT ME LIKE THIS!

AH ...

HUH ...

WELL, A WHORE OUGHT TO BE TREATED LIKE ONE.

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ALL TOO WELL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO LADIES OF YOUR CALIBER, SO YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

AFTER ALL, ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?

THAT YOU WON'T ...

FIGHT WITH AFONSO ...

I

I BEG OF YOU. .....

THAT I WON'T HURT YOU.

THOUGH, I PROMISE YOU...

JUST PROMISE ME...

STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DIE!

WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THIS?

I CAN SEE THROUGHT YOUR METAPHORS!

IF THERE IS AN AFTERLIFE, I WONDER WHAT IT IS LIKE...

WILL I BE THERE ALONE...OR WILL EVERYONE BE THERE WITH ME?

DUKE ...

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND SOON ENOUGH,

ANSWERS CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN THE STARS.

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WE CAN EVEN TELL WHETHER WE WILL LIVE OR WE WILL DIE

UNDER-STAND MY FRIEND, THIS DONESN'T APPLY TO EVERY-ONE...

I'M JUST WATCHING THE STARS.

I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

DUKE, IT'S COLD, PLEASE COME INSIDE.

THE STARS ARE SHINING EVER SO BRIGHTLY,

IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU CAN FEEL THEM COMPETITING WITH EACH OTHER.

WHY MUST THEY DO THAT?

WE MUST THEY PURSUE THEIR DREAMS ...

HEY,

EVEN THOUGH YOU SPEAK ABOUT STARS...YOU MEAN REAL LIFE...

WILL YOU AT LEAST LOOK AT ME.

後記

好久不見了。真的是讓各位久等了!!
包含國外的讀者在內，寄來了很多希望再出續集的信件與郵件，因此，可以像這樣再把第 11 集呈現在各位面前，我真的感到非常高興。

其實前半段的 90 頁，是在休刊之前刊載在本誌中的，在前半段與後半段之間，經過了４年的時間，所以畫法或許會有些不同吧…。
雖然好久沒有畫了，可是畫這個世界真的很有趣。
自己似乎有種深深的感動…。雖然是事隔已久的重新開始，可是下一集就要進入結局了。在短暫的期間之內，
希望各位可以再繼續守護著我。

SPECIAL THANKS
助手´S、PRINCESS 編輯部、責任編輯、
以及各位購買本書的讀者

來信請寄

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